

Message

From: Ava Kofman [Ava.Kofman@propublica.org]
Sent: 10/28/2021 8:21:18 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]; Tejada, Matthew [Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov]; Sumner, Mitchell [sumner.mitchell@epa.gov]; Fried, Gregory [Fried.Gregory@epa.gov]
CC: Beal, Madeline [Beal.Madeline@epa.gov]; EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]; Lisa Song [Lisa.Song@propublica.org]; Lylla Younes [lylla.younes@propublica.org]; Maya Miller [Maya.Miller@propublica.org]; Labbe, Ken [Labbe.Ken@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: ProPublica Substantive Interview Request
Attachments: EPA Letter 10_31.docx

Dear Tim, Greg, Matt, and Mitch,

It was great to e-meet you. Thank you so much for making the time to speak with us. We look forward to continuing to engage and speak with you about these important issues.

As mentioned on the call, we are re-sending here the details about our analysis, reporting, and conclusions that we shared with the agency on Oct 14. And of course, please let us know if there's anything else that you'd like to add, clarify, or correct before 12 noon tomorrow related to the attached or anything else that we spoke about.

We will review our recording this evening and send those quotes over tonight, as well, for approval around noon tomorrow.

I'm at 347-410-0113 if there's anything additional to discuss on the phone.

All our best,
Ava, Lylla, Lisa and Maya

From: Lylla Younes <lylla.younes@propublica.org>
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 6:23 PM
To: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>, "press@epa.gov" <press@epa.gov>
Cc: Ava Kofman <Ava.Kofman@propublica.org>, Lisa Song <Lisa.Song@propublica.org>
Subject: ProPublica Substantive Interview Request

Hello, again, from ProPublica.

We have continued our research on a series of stories about estimated cancer risk from toxic industrial air pollution.

The stories are based on our independent analysis of data from the EPA's RSEI model. We analyzed and visualized the spread of cancer-causing chemicals from every major source of toxic air pollution in the country. The multi-year analysis accounts for how these estimated cancer risks add up in every square kilometer of the country. We will be publishing a searchable map displaying the data from our analysis.

We are eager to hear your feedback on the analysis and the methodology, which we detail in the attached letter.

Alongside this data analysis, we also expect to publish various stories. The first of these stories, which we are currently writing to discuss, broadly examines how the implementation of the Clean Air Act fails to adequately regulate air toxics. Building off of our analysis, the story asks how and why the EPA has allowed these pockets of cancer-causing air — what we call, "toxic hotspots" — to take root across the United States. It raises

questions about how the federal rules designed to protect Americans from toxic air pollution have left some of the country's most vulnerable communities behind.

Below we have outlined in detail our questions and what we've learned from the reporting we've done for this specific story. (We have been in touch along the way about various questions and we know that some of our colleagues, such as Kiah Collier and Maya Miller, have asked you questions for other, separate stories).

We understand that there isn't a single person at the agency who will be able to speak to our questions, correct any misunderstandings we might have, and/or offer deeper context. Because of this, we are requesting interviews with relevant experts in the following programs and subject areas: air toxics regulated under the Clean Air Act Section 112 (Office of Air and Radiation (OAR)), enforcement (EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance), environmental justice (EPA's Office of Environmental Justice), RSEI & the TRI program (Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics), and residual risk assessments (Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards). We have attempted to steer our questions accordingly to the proper officials at the agency.

We are available any time before 6PM on the 21st to speak about what we've learned, and to learn from you. We would also like to know if there are any inaccuracies in what we've laid out below. We are happy to talk over video, in person, or by phone. Your responses are important to us. We take them seriously and we are eager to engage in these conversations.

Many thanks,

Lylla Younes (318-730-4959), Lisa Song (646-712-0120), and Ava Kofman (347-410-0113)